

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #37]

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one)

PUB. Living Lore in

New England

TITLE Italian Cobbler, Beverly #37

WRITER Morton R. Lovett

DATE 4/5/39 WDS. PP. 5

CHECKER DATE

SOURCES GIVEN (?) Interview

COMMENTS 4/5/39

Conn

1938-9 Paper No. 37

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Interview with Vito Cacciola

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by

Morton R. Lovett

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“As well as remembered.”

Interview with Vito Cacciola

BY Morton R. Lovett

. . . .

(from memory)

“Sometimes, Mr. Lovett, I thinks our lives are influenced by fate. We do not knowa what will happen nexta week.

“No, though we plana our future with care, things most unexpected maka de hash of those plans.

“That's what I meana. Did your live marcha on in de direction which you hop-ed?

“You see, Mr. Lovett, fate made de destruction with your wishes. So also it killed many of my mosta priz-ed hopes.

“Sure we can helpa ourselves by de strong will and harda work.

“Perhaps lika you say, ‘I am de Captain of my [soul?!]’ But what cana de captain do if his general have other ideas for him?

“What many men wisha, would destroya happiness for other peoples. Perhaps it is best that fate tripa them and they geta disappointment.

“Thinka , if you will, of my brother Peter. Did he maka de great war? It his fault that de world goa crazy?

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"Ifa de Germans did not starta war, would he losa his fine position? Would he becoma prisoner? Would he be today a workman on W.P.A.?"

"Sometimes I geta de laugh, when I heara peoples boasta what they will do in de future. Perhaps fate will foola them. They may geta sick.

2

They may die.

"Well, I giva to you de example. There coma to vista me a man, which fate has breaka in de pieces. He is de most shabby and mucha dirty.

Never does he washa himself. He smella also. I believe he does not changa his clothes this winter. Instead he sews them on to keepa warm.

"No, he in not de favored friend, but he is de interesting study. He worka and diga for little pay. Never does he maka complaints or curse his luck. Instead he is mosta contented.

"You would not believe it, Mr. Lovett, but once he was de most successfull and de most ambitious man. He hava much richness. He plana to get more wealth.

"O.K., I tella to you de story. He was nam-ed Nick.

"He was de sailor, very handsome and smarta, who lived near to my home in Sicily. He joina de Italian navy and maka such advancement that he goes to navy school. In de war he was officer on de destroyer ship. Many submarines did he sink and geta prais-ed for bravery.

"After de peace coma, he is de Captain on steamboat which saila from Messina. Then he getta married to richa girl. She liva in house lika de palace and has biga dowery.

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"One time he is visit his home, after voyage to Liverpool. He 3 taka his wife out to sail in a little boat which he owns. It is a mosta lovely day. De sky isa blue; de sun it is bright and far way they can see de mountain call-ed Etna. With red sail they danca along on de waves lika this. Nowhere do they see danger.

"But would you believe it, Mr. Lovett, there is greata danger what they do not see. It is worsa then hurricane, or rocks or whale. It is a bomb, that explode de ship. De Germans loos-ed many such bombs a long time before. Some of them sink big ships and bringa death to many innocent peoples. Some of them floata in ocean and nobody sees them.

"Nick and is wife is happy. They have no worries. With love they are blind. De little boat hita that bomb. It maka de big noise - boom, and smasha de boat to pieces.

"Yes, de wife she is kill-ed. Perhaps de sharks eata her. Nick is mucha wounded. He knowa nothing, but some sailors maka de rescue.

"When he getta heal-ed, his heart it has much sorrow. He does not wisha to live.

"No; he does not bossa de ship anymore. He hasa too much grief. His head was crack-ed. He acta queer. Besides he hasa a disgust with 4 the ocean.

"Then he coma this country to seea his brother. He diga with pick and shovel.

"No, he hasa little sorrow now. Some peoples think his is de nuts, but he is a contented. When he geta tired, he sleepa. When he is hungry, he eata. He wanta no more. He is better off as many men who worry about those things which fate steal away.

"We cannot be happy if we wanta those things we are unable to win.

"Yes, that isa true. Happiness doesa not consist of million dollars, but of de modest needs and ambitions.

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"I have here some oranges. They are for your daughter Mary. I am mucha glad that she has return-ed from de hospital.

"No, it is to me an honor. When you giva them to Mary, however, I want you to tella her this. They are from Vito and for her enjoyment and instruction I maka a disgestion.

"Yes, thats what I meana, a suggestion, a rule.

"Before Mary goa to sleep each night, peel for her de orange. Washa it clean and place a it in de cup lika this. Then puta de orange and de cup nearly de bed, where she can reacha it with convenience. 5 "Sometimes in de night Mary will wake up. Her mouth it will be hot and dry. To geta relief, she shall reacha out and taka piece of de orange. When she eata it she will finda much pleasure. It maka de tongue cool and is most refreshing. It at de same time when she eata, she says de prayer, her heart will be refresh-ed also.

"You aska her to doa it that way. Quickly she will finda improvement and gooda health. "